area has been covered under JFM. People's participation is mandatory in all the afforestation schemes of the government. As reported by the state governments the forest cover has increased in the areas covered under JFM. Total forest cover as per 1999 assessment of Forest Survey of India has increased by 3896 sq. km., as compared to 1997 assessment.

Zoos and big Cats

2205. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Zoos in the country and the numbers of tigers, lions and other wild cats in each Zoos, in the beginning of 1998, 1999, 2000 and at present, indicating the number of births and deaths each year; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on maintenance of these Zoos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) There are 199 recognised zoos in the country. The number of Tigers, Lions and Panthers in 38 zoos for 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in Annexure. Information regarding births and deaths for the three species is also given in the Annexure *[See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 32]* Details of births and deaths for the year 2000 are not available.

(b) The ownership pattern of zoos is quite varied and includes private companies and trusts also. As such expenditure figures for zoos are not compiled and collated in this Ministry.

Pollution by Tanneries in Tamil Nadu

2206. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Tanner Pollution by tanneries in North Arcot district in Tamil Nadu, stating the extent of damage to lands and health hazards;

(b) whether it is happening inspite of Supreme Court

order for closure of Tanneries which are not provided with treatment plants; and

(c) whether Government are also aware that in Collusion with officials of Pollution Control Board, the tanneries are allowed to function without the facilities of treatment plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the tannery pollution in North Arcot district of Tamil Nadu. The Loss of Ecology (Prevention and Payments of Compensation) Authority constituted by the Government for the purpose of determining compensation to the affected individuals has estimated an extent of 15,632 hectares of agricultural land damaged by pollution from tanneries in the district. As per the Director of Health Services of the State, no specific disease solely attributable to tannery pollution has been reported to the Government Hospitals in the District.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has not issued consent to any tannery which has not been provided with treatment plant and, as such, no tannery is operating in the State without effluent treatment plant.

Mortality rate versus iodine deficiency

2207. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mortality rate has increased due to deficiency of iodised salt in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of deaths due to the deficiency of iodised salt during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to bring down the mortality rate, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.